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BUS BEHEADER GETS UNESCORTED TRIPS FROM MENTAL HOSPITAL PAGE 6

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Luke Deitner, seen here at his Avenue W North home in Saskatoon, says he's tired of letting the world pass him by because of his obesity. He's raising funds for a surgery that could cut his 600-pound weight in half, and save his life. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Mission: 1/2 off 600 lbs.

Crowdfunding for weight-loss surgery. 21-year-old says he's tired of having 'one foot in the grave,' hopes to raise $30,000

MORGAN MODJESKI
morgan.modjeski@metronews.ca

Unable to drive, work or sleep through the night, a morbidly obese Saskatoon man wants to change his life.

Luke Deitner, 21, weighs about 600 pounds. And he's hoping to raise $30,000 for a surgery that could cut his girth in half.

"For so long now, it seems the world has just spun around me, and I've just stayed in one spot — and I don't want that to happen," Deitner told Metro on Thursday, noting the effects of his size and weight in severely limiting his mobility and stamina.

"I want to be part of this world."

Overweight since childhood, Deitner has been ridiculed almost all of his life. He hardly leaves his home these days, also out of fear of being judged.

"Having to deal with social prejudice also plays a huge role in why I choose to stay home a lot of the time," he explained.

"People have gone as far to pull over their vehicles to shout names at me for their reason of having a chuckle. Things like that have stuck with me for my entire life."

With friend Tess Boehm, he has set up an online crowdfunding campaign to raise money for a bariatric procedure in Montreal that would shrink his stomach substantially. He's too large to have the surgery in Saskatchewan.

The stigma, Boehm said, makes obesity extremely difficult.

"People forget that obesity is a disease," she said.

"If you're an alcoholic, they send you to a treatment centre. If you're a meth addict, they send you to a clinic. But if you're obese, you're laughed at."

A Montreal surgeon is in the early stages of preparing an operation plan to send to Saskatchewan Health in hopes of having the surgery's cost covered, Boehm said.

If the Saskatchewan government pays for the surgery, Deitner and Boehm will reduce their fundraising goal. It's likely that Deitner would still have to cover costs for travel and accommodation.

Life-saving surgery

To donate funds for Deitner's surgery, visit gofundme.com/71316s

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Serious condition

Cops investigate stabbing of man, 50

Saskatoon Police Service is currently investigating the stabbing of a 50-year-old man. Thursday afternoon, police were called to an alley in the 1900 block of 22nd Street W, where the man was found suffering from stab wounds. He was transported to hospital and is in serious but stable condition. METRO

Seriously injured

Preliminary hearing set for three Roughriders charged in bar fight

Three players with the Saskatchewan Roughriders charged with aggravated assault will face a preliminary hearing in June.

The hearing in Regina provincial court is set for June 11 and 12 for defensive back Dwight Anderson, wide receiver Taj Smith and wide receiver Eron Riley.

They were charged after a man was seriously injured in a bar fight in Regina last August.

Preliminary hearings determine whether there is enough evidence to send cases to trial.

This case will next be spoken to in court on May 2.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

This weekend

Sask. gears up for annual Telemiracle

Regina is preparing for Saskatchewan's 38th annual Telemiracle telethon this weekend.

Telemiracle, a live televised event that raises money for people with special needs, will be held in Regina on Saturday and Sunday at Conexus Arts Centre.

Last year, Telemiracle raised $5.5 million.

"It's always great to beat that goal, but we just always hope to make as much as we possibly can," said Telemiracle chairman Clint Shkuratoff.

Fundraisers including costume parties and bed-pushing events from Saskatoon to Regina have been held across the province in anticipation of the telethon. Money raised through Telemiracle will go toward wheelchairs, meals, hospital equipment, travel for medical checkups and the like. SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO

U of S council votes down motion on TransformUS

'Non-confidence'. Staff on both sides of issue debated for more than 40 minutes

JACOB MORGAN
jacob.morgan@metronews.ca

The University of Saskatchewan's transformation will go ahead as planned.

Members of University Council voted down a motion expressing "non-confidence" in the TransformUS budget-trimming process 42-18.

Staff on both sides of the issue debated Thursday afternoon for more than 40 minutes.

Len Findlay of the English department introduced the motion, characterizing it as "anti-faculty" and calling for a change "lest faculty and student morale sink even lower."

Others were worried about impending layoffs as professor James Waldram noted a termination would likely spell out the end of an academic career. Meanwhile, professor Claire Card said TransformUS values finances over academic merit.

But Peter Stoicheff, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said that if TransformUS were scrapped, more funds would still be necessary to draft a new process.

Lisa Kalynchuk, who is a co-chair of the taskforce in charge of prioritizing academic programs, added that the process was collegial, made up of faculty and peers.

"I have never seen a group of people more dedicated," said Kalynchuk.

The proposals are only recommendations, she said, and University Council will have the authority to debate the implementation.

Speaking on behalf of the administration, Provost Brett Fairbairn addressed council and said budget cuts inevitably lead to "soul-searching and heartache."

"For all the imperfections, this is the best process … we've been able to find," he told media after the meeting.

Brett Fairbairn, University of Saskatchewan provost and vice-president academic, speaks to media on Thursday after the University Council meeting. JACOB MORGAN/METRO

An implementation plan for the TransformUS recommendations will be presented around the beginning of May, said Fairbairn. The institution is facing a $29-million dollar shortfall in 2016, he said, which is down from the original $44.5-million projection.

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Saskatoon advocate joins protest against Alberta horse cull

Activism. Woman has made three trips to capture grounds

MORGAN MODJESKI
morgan.modjeski@metronews.ca

For many across Canada, the culling of Alberta's wild horses in the province's southwest is a sad news story. But for one Saskatoon woman, it's a call to action.

Bunnie Harasym, of Paradise Stable Horse Rescue west of Saskatoon, has made three trips to Alberta in the past month to join activists as they attempt to hinder the cull.

"It's heartbreaking," said Harasym, who returned from her most recent trip on Monday, a day before five protesters were arrested.

"You're watching them and just hoping that ... favourite horse that you saw is not in the capture pen … it's really emotionally draining."

The Alberta government has issued 200 permits to capture the animals numbering more than 980, saying they negatively impact livestock, animals and plant life.

Though snares and firearms are prohibited, advocates say the practice is hard on the animals because those with permits use capture pens loaded with food. Once they're inside, a trip wire causes the door to close — an experience Harasym calls "terrifying" for them.

However, Krissy Fiddler, executive director of the Saskatchewan Horse Federation, said the practice is necessary to ensure a healthy herd.

"It takes 30 days for a horse to starve and die, and we as advocates of health and welfare of these animals need to make sure they don't get to that point." Fiddler said.

Bunnie Harasym of Paradise Stable Horse Rescue is seen with Levis, one of the many rescued horses at her sanctuary. Harasym has made three trips to Alberta with her husband to protest the cull of wild horses. Alberta's capture season started in November and will end on Saturday. MORGANMODJESKI/METRO

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Human rights violation.
Report predicted recent unrest in Ukraine

A chemical weapons attack in Syria last summer that the U.S. says killed more than 1,400 people was the world's worst human rights violation of 2013, the Obama administration concluded Thursday.

The report by the State Department also foreshadowed the unrest in Ukraine that just toppled its government.

Iran, North Korea and Belarus were also singled out in the report.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"The tragedy that has befallen the Syrian people stands apart in its scope and human cost." Quote from the report

Rehearsal for invasion?

North Korea launches missiles in protest, say officials

North Korea fired four suspected short-range missiles into its eastern waters Thursday, South Korean defence officials said, in an apparent effort to protest ongoing U.S.-South Korean military exercises that Pyongyang calls a rehearsal for invasion.

The launches, however, weren't expected to raise tension as North Korea routinely tests short-range missiles and it has recently sought better ties with South Korea in what outside analysts say is an attempt to win badly-needed foreign investment and aid.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Same-sex marriage.
Kentucky the latest win for gay rights advocates

A federal judge signed an order Thursday directing officials in Kentucky to immediately recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states and countries, capping a hectic 24 hours in the battle over gay rights that is raging across America.

The Kentucky decision was just the latest victory for gay rights advocates.

A federal judge on Wednesday declared a same-sex marriage ban in deeply conservative Texas unconstitutional, handing same-sex marriage proponents their biggest victory yet — pending an appeal that will likely go to the U.S. Supreme Court.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pro-Russian gunmen seize Ukraine's Crimea

Blow to the bank.
Tensions have caused the country's finances to plummet, prompting a potential emergency financial package

Pro-Russian activists carry Orthodox Icons at a checkpoint outside the Ukrainian Black Sea port of Sevastopol in Crimea, Ukraine, Thursday. ANDREW LUBIMOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Masked gunmen stormed parliament in Ukraine's strategic Crimea region Thursday as Russian fighter jets scrambled to patrol borders, while the newly formed government pledged to prevent a national breakup with strong backing from the West — the stirrings of a potentially dangerous confrontation reminiscent of Cold War brinksmanship.

Moscow granted shelter to Ukraine's fugitive president, Viktor Yanukovych, state media said. He was said to be holed up in a luxury government retreat and to have scheduled a news conference Friday near the Ukrainian border.

As gunmen wearing unmarked camouflage uniforms erected a sign reading "Crimea is Russia" in the provincial capital, Ukraine's interim prime minister declared the Black Sea territory "has been and will be a part of Ukraine."

The escalating conflict sent Ukraine's finances plummeting further, prompting Western leaders to prepare an emergency financial package.

Yanukovych, whose abandonment of closer ties to Europe in favour of a bailout loan from Russia set off three months of protests, finally fled by helicopter last week as his allies deserted him. The humiliating exit was a severe blow to Russian President Vladimir Putin, who had been celebrating his signature Olympics even as Ukraine's drama came to a head.

The Russian leader has long dreamed of pulling Ukraine — a country of 46 million people considered the cradle of Russian civilization — closer into Moscow's orbit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President in hiding

- Yanukovych declared Thursday in a statement that he remains Ukraine's legitimate president. He was reportedly to hold a news conference Friday in the southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don, not far from the Ukrainian border.
- Yanukovych fled after riot police attacked protesters in Kyiv's central square in clashes that killed more than 80 people, and European and Russian officials intervened. He has not been seen publicly since Saturday, when he insisted he remained the legitimately elected president — a position backed by Russia.

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Google gives virtual tour of 'Polar Bear Capital'

A polar bear investigates a vehicle recording imagery for Google Maps in Churchill, Man. Google Maps users can now trek virtually across the frozen Manitoba tundra and spy on the local residents, who weren't shy about posing for the cameras. Known as the "Polar Bear Capital of the World," Google visited Churchill with the assistance of the non-profit Polar Bears International to capture images of the majestic animals and their habitat for its Street View feature.
GOOGLE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Greyhound killer allowed to leave hospital unescorted

Vince Li. Board grants man who beheaded fellow passenger on Manitoba bus freedom to travel to nearby town without supervision

Not convinced

"He poses no threat in care. I propose they keep him in care so he's not a threat."

Carol DeDelley, mother of victim Tim McLean, who says there is no way to guarantee that Vince Li will continue to take his medication if he's unsupervised.

A man who beheaded a fellow passenger on a Greyhound bus in Manitoba will soon be allowed to leave a mental hospital without an escort.

Thursday's ruling by the Criminal Code Review Board means Vince Li will be on his own in public for the first time since he stabbed Tim McLean and then ate parts of his body six years ago.

The board granted Li all the new freedoms his psychiatric team had requested at a hearing earlier this week. Lead psychiatrist Dr. Steven Kremer said Li, a schizophrenic, has stopped experiencing delusions and is a non-violent patient.

Instead of the supervised outings Li had been granted previously, he will be allowed unescorted trips from the Selkirk Mental Health Centre into the nearby city of Selkirk. The visits, to begin next Thursday, are to start at 30 minutes and increase to full days.

As well, Li's supervision on outings to other communities — including Winnipeg — will be relaxed. He is to be part of a group without a staff member dedicated to monitoring him.

Li is also to be moved to an unlocked ward at the hospital from the secure wing where he has been kept.

For McLean's mother, the changes were an outrage.

"We're not surprised. We're very disappointed, embarrassed, ashamed," Carol DeDelley said.

"I ultimately do not believe that when you take a life, you have the right to freedom any longer." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro

Egypt. Supporters rally for release of Canadian journalist and colleagues

Members of the Canadian media and the public joined an international day of action Thursday to demand the release of several Al Jazeera journalists, including an Egyptian-Canadian, who are imprisoned in Cairo.

Canadian Mohamed Fahmy and his colleagues — Australian Peter Greste and Egyptian Baher Mohamed — were detained on Dec. 29, and are being tried on charges of belonging to and aiding a terrorist organization.

Their arrests were characterized as part of a crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamist group that Egypt's government has branded a terrorist organization.

Local authorities have said Al Jazeera is biased towards the Brotherhood — an allegation the broadcaster has denied.

At a rally in Toronto, journalists and concerned citizens braved frigid temperatures to send a message that journalism is not a crime.

"They are reporters, producers, journalists and they've been put in jail for doing their jobs. It's unjust," Tom Henheffer, executive director of the Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, said at a rally in Toronto.

"It's crucial that we gather for one of our fellow Canadians and fight to get him out of prison."

Journalists and free speech advocates, some with masking tape stuck across their mouths, gathered in centres in other countries as well, including London's Trafalgar Square, Lebanon's Martyrs' Square and in Kenya's capital, Nairobi.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

A journalist covers her mouth in Beirut, Lebanon, Thursday, to show solidarity with journalists, including Canadian Mohamed Fahmy, who are detained by Egyptian authorities.
HUSSEIN MALLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More study needed

Canada agrees to prevent fishing in Arctic Ocean

Canada and four other Arctic nations have agreed to work toward a deal to block commercial fishing in the central Arctic Ocean until more is known about the potential of the resource.

The agreement with the U.S., Russia, Denmark and Norway was reached Wednesday in Nuuk, Greenland, after three days of talks.

"The participants recognized the need for interim precautionary measures to prevent any future commercial fisheries without the prior establishment of appropriate regulatory mechanisms," said a news release issued from Nuuk.

"The participants will work toward the establishment of such interim measures."

The five Arctic coastal nations each regulate fishing up to 200 nautical miles from their shores, but that leaves a large regulatory hole in the central Arctic Ocean.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Locked iPhone

Apple may help investigators in Pistorius case

Reeva Steenkamp and Oscar Pistorius in 2012. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

South African prosecutors pressing a murder charge against Oscar Pistorius secured a meeting Thursday with Apple officials in the U.S. over accessing potentially crucial evidence on the double-amputee athlete's locked iPhone, they said. Pistorius said he forgot the password for the phone after he shot dead girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp in 2013.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Antipsychotics

Drug firms fight $1.2B award

A lawyer for two drug companies told the Arkansas Supreme Court the state improperly relied on federal regulations in a lawsuit that resulted in a $1.2 billion US award over the companies' marketing of an antipsychotics drug. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One block at a time

Lego builds big interest in China

Lego says its multi-coloured blocks were hugely in demand worldwide in 2013, especially in China where the company plans to open a factory to meet growing interest in its products.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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U.K. spied on webcams: NSA leaks

Report. Yahoo calls news British spy agency stole screenshots of intimate videos 'a whole new level of violation of users privacy' if true

Britain's signals intelligence division is stealing screenshots from hundreds of thousands of innocent Yahoo users' webcam videos, according to the Guardian newspaper, which also reported that the years-long operation has swept up a huge haul of intimate photographs.

The newspaper said GCHQ has been scooping up the sensitive images by intercepting video chats such as the kind offered by Yahoo Messenger, an effort codenamed OPTIC NERVE. It's not clear how many Yahoo users were spied on in this way. The Guardian said that in one six-month period in 2008, GCHQ intercepted the video communications of 1.8 million users, but it's possible that the program, which the Guardian says was still active in 2012, has either grown or shrunk in scope since then.

If the program expanded, millions more could have had their video communications intercepted. Yahoo Messenger had 75 million users worldwide in late 2011, according to an estimate by digital analytics company comScore, although numbers have fallen steadily since then.

The Guardian said the documents were provided by former U.S. intelligence worker Edward Snowden, who remains in Russia after having sought temporary asylum there. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OPTIC NERVE hits a nerve

1.8M

The video communications of about 1.8 million users had been hacked by the GCHQ in a six-month period in 2008, according to the report by the Guardian.

Cold War redux on the horizon?

An American classic car drives past the Russian warship the Viktor Leonov CCB-175, docked in Havana, Cuba, Thursday. The warship, one of Russia's Vishnya-class ships which are generally used for intelligence gathering, was docked in the harbour on Thursday, a day after the country's defence minister announced plans to expand Russia's worldwide military presence. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wireless spectrum sale blocked

Industry Minister James Moore has turned down the sale of 83 wireless spectrum licences by NextWave to a joint venture between Rogers Communications and Bell Canada.

The joint venture, Inukshuk Wireless, was formed to build and manage a Canada-wide wireless broadband network.

Moore said the proposed licence transfer would have led to unacceptable levels of concentration of spectrum in the hands of incumbent carriers.

"We will not approve any spectrum transfer request that results in excessive spectrum concentration for Canada's largest wireless companies, which negatively affects competition in the telecommunications sector," Moore said in a statement. Bell said it had planned on using the NextWave spectrum as part of its long-range LTE rollout in rural and remote areas.

"We'll adjust and foresee no impact on Bell's overall LTE expansion program," Bell spokesman Jacqueline Michelis said in an email. Rogers said the decision doesn't affect its plans to roll out 4G LTE to more customers in areas across the country.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flying. The 1% get more than mere curtains

Some of the most cherished new international first-class perks for fliers have nothing to do with meals, drinks or seats. Global airlines are increasingly rewarding wealthy fliers with something more intangible: physical distance between them and everyone else.

The idea is to provide an exclusive experience — inaccessible, even invisible, to the masses in coach. It's one way that a gap between the world's wealthiest one per cent and everyone else has widened.

Many top-paying passengers, having put down roughly $15,000 US for a ticket, now check in at secluded facilities and are driven in luxury cars directly to planes.

When Emirates Airline opened a new concourse in Dubai last year, it made sure to keep coach passengers separate from those in business and first class. The top floor of the building is for premium passengers with direct boarding to the upstairs of Emirates' fleet of double-decker Airbus A380s. Those in coach wait one storey below and board to the lower level of the plane.

London's Heathrow Airport took a private suite area designed for the royal family and heads of state and in July opened it to any passenger flying business or first class who's willing to pay an extra $2,500 US.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Under the provisions of *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulations Act, 1997,* Notice is hereby given that 101015751 Saskatchewan Ltd. has applied to the Liquor and Gaming Authority for a Special Use Permit to sell alcohol in the premises known as Just for You Day Spa and Gift Studio at 2414D 8th Street East, Saskatoon, SK of which the following is a correct legal description:

Lot(s) 2 & 20
Blk 285
Plan No. 61-S-17721
2414D 8th Street East
Saskatoon, SK

Written objections for the granting of the permit may be filed with SLGA not more than two weeks for the date of the publication of this notice.

Every person filing a written objection with SLGA shall state their name, address and telephone number in printed form, as well as the grounds for the objection(s). Petitions must name a contact person, state grounds and be legible. Each signatory and the contact person must provide an address and telephone number. Frivolous, vexatious or competition-based objections within the beverage alcohol industry may not be considered, and may be rejected by the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Commission, who may refuse to hold a hearing.

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Interviews will take place at the end of February in Saskatoon
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HASHTAG HOPES FOR SPRING

THE METRO LIST

Neil Morton
metronews.ca

1 Piers Morgan. Social media went nuts this week when it was announced CNN was ending Piers Morgan's show next month due to poor ratings. The majority seemed fully in support of the decision to axe the show. I for one find his interview style refreshing and transparent, and his ranting on gun control laws — while tiring to some — bang on. I say move Anderson Cooper into the 9 p.m. slot now.

2 #PinkShirtDay #StopBullying. People standing up to bullies — while wearing pink — was trending across Canada this week in a beautiful show of solidarity against bullying on Pink Shirt Day on Wednesday. Whether it's in the schoolyard, home, workplace or online, we all know someone who has been bullied. The more awareness (and action) on this social issue, the better.

3 Harold Ramis. The world of comedy lost a gem — his writing classics included Animal House and Groundhog Day — when he passed away at the age of 69, and online tributes flowed in. It's his co-starring role in the Ghostbuster movies he'll likely be most remembered for. Indeed, a Twitter picture showing a tribute to him outside the Ghostbusters firehouse in Tribeca (Twinkie included!) was shared all over the interwebs.

4 AC/DC symphony. It's perhaps the best mashup of classical music meets classic rock ever: Croatian string duo 2Cellos did an amazing cover of AC/DC's Thunderstruck, performed in full period setting. It has four million views on YouTube. I want more. I want the 2Cellos to do Stairway to Heaven, Bohemian Rhapsody, Sweet Child O'Mine and Smells Like Teen Spirit. Shake me all night long with that.

5 #WeAreSpring, please. #WeAreWinter was a fantastic, empowering promo for the Canadian Olympic team during the Winter Olympics but that's over (and we did amazing!), yet the frigid temperatures still remain. I can speak for everyone when I say we are kinda getting sick of shovelling. So I propose it's time to bring out a #WeAreSpring campaign where we encourage Mother Nature to show us some heat! Bring it with that hashtag.

6 Coldplay. With no context, Coldplay released an eerie, frosty, dark new video titled Midnight this week that felt more like a Radiohead song. But dropping stuff with zero context is the new I'm-going-to-build-so-much-hype-behind-this-product-before-it's-released-you-won't-believe-it! So it makes total sense, actually.

7 Anchorman 2. On Feb. 28, Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues is being re-released in theatres for one week only with 763 new jokes. A movie that had so much improvisation had plenty to choose from and these new ones have risen from the cutting room floor. So now, watch out on social media as movie-goers tweet out their fave new Ron Burgundy lines.

8 Oscars. With the 86th Academy Awards Sunday night, the biggest social media action will be on what returning host Ellen has to say in her opening monologue, and what the stars are wearing on the red carpet. The actual awards are secondary — though if Barkhad Abdi from Captain Phillips doesn't win best actor in a supporting role, I'll be kicking up a Twitter storm.

Follow The Metro List on Twitter @TheMetroList

ZOOM

Batman stars in new toy story

COURTESY FREYA JOBBINS

Dark Knight's head made of recyclables

It looks like Batman has gone all soft – he's made out of toys. Sculptor Freya Jobbins created this bust of the Caped Crusader using old figurines, with a baby doll belly as his chin. "My work explores the relationship between consumerist fetishism and the emerging recycling culture within the visual arts," says Jobbins. METRO

Artist's viewpoint

"I begin my work by finding toys in second-hand shops and recycling centres. As I build a base layer of toys and doll parts, the persona of the bust starts to evolve." Freya Jobbins

So many items

- "I love the actual process of hunting for the discarded toys, but to find so many of them unwanted, still in perfectly good condition, really shocks me," Jobbins said.

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Seth Rogen and his partner-in-crime Evan Goldberg's next announced project is a movie version of Console Wars, an upcoming book about the knock-down, drag-out brawl between Sega and Nintendo of the '90s. But there's no need to wait for either to refresh your memories of a pixelated rivalry.

TORY WALKER/FLICKR

Nesbox:

Brush up on the Nintendo side of the war by browsing through a playable library of NES and SNES games that is hundreds deep. Classic RPGs, beat-em-up brawlers and patience-grinding platformers. Not to mention the mighty and beloved Earthbound. (nesbox.com)

Ssega:

Look, fan boys. It's quite easy to love the offerings of both companies. There's no need for rival camps. However, as you're working your way through proven classics like Aladdin, Beyond Oasis and Sonic Spinball (that's right, Spinball), you'll find we can all agree that most of the music was terrible. (ssega.com)

The Console Wars:

If the games themselves cause your eyes to glaze over, there's still a magnificent yarn full of insider intrigue, corporate betrayal and tumbles from the throne. The full book is a few weeks away from release, but Exposé has a pretty great primer that may pique your interest. (xmedia.ex.ac.uk)

Twitter

@metropicks asked: The Oscars are this Sunday! If you created an Oscars category that you would win, what would it be called?

@Frank_Mag: Category; "Best Actor/Actress who only has one line in a movie award" best delivery of said line wins obviously.

@MomAndDadFight: and the oscar for best new oscar category goes to Ben Whitaker for his work on best new oscar category

@GeorginaBencsik: Best #style

@VickiEssex: Best Monologue Delivered with a Mouth Full of Food. #oscarcategories

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Synopsis

Liam Neeson joins the mile-high club in Non-Stop. He plays Bill Marks, an aging U.S. federal air marshal safe-guarding the 150 passengers, including Julianne Moore, Corey Stoll, Linus Roache and flight attendant Lupita Nyong'o, on an international flight from New York to London. He's also a burn-out, a lonely guy with a loaded gun and a propensity to get loaded on booze. The routine flight becomes fraught with danger when he receives text messages from a mysterious source threatening to kill a passenger every 20 minutes unless a ransom of $150 million is deposited into a bank account. When that account is discovered to be in Marks's name, he's accused of being a hijacker.

- Richard: ●●○○○
- Mark: ●●○○○

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Liam Neeson takes his tough guy act in the air in Non-Stop. CONTRIBUTED

Just plane outrageous

Non-Stop. Liam Neeson's acting is the only thing that saves this from a crash landing

Richard: Mark, Non-Stop has more red herrings than a fish and chips shop. Clues are dropped and discarded and the plot is so ludicrous that every now and again someone has to say, "I can explain this," so the audience has a fighting chance of making some kind of sense of the intrigue. The story is simple but is muddied by outrageous twists. Once I decided to not try and play along — this isn't True Detective where every word and scene counts — I enjoyed watching Neeson in action man mode. He's better than the movie and he made this movie better simply by showing up.

Mark: Richard, I liked the movie in spite of itself. I did play along right to the end, and enjoyed the ride. But it's this Agatha Christie-like cheesiness that keeps threatening to sink the picture. And the answer to the movie's riddle was far from satisfying. It felt tacked on and graceless. Neeson is great, but he's getting so old for this sort of thing. Soon he's going to have to chase after the bad guys with a walker.

RC: You wouldn't say that if he was after you! Walker or no walker, the old boy has some life in him yet. There is a certain cheesy joy to be found in the image of Neeson floating in zero gravity, grabbing a gun out of the air and getting business done. He has carved a unique action niche for himself and seems to be having fun growling and gunning his way through trashy action movies.

MB: And what about Julianne Moore? What's her excuse? Mortgage payments? She was actually the one passenger I didn't believe in for a moment. I kept thinking, "Why is Julianne Moore in this picture?' And like everyone else, she gets to do an emotional speech that proves she couldn't be the villain. Which, of course, may or may not be the case. I know you liked Neeson's zero gravity gun grab, but I also liked his fist fight in the airplane lavatory. Shot in such close quarters, it was very exciting.

RC: I hope Moore buys something nice with the pay cheque. She gets the job done, but that part could have been played by anyone. I feel bad for Lupita Nyong'o. She's an Oscar nominee for 12 Years a Slave, but here she's reduced to a Grace Jones impersonator with just a few lines.

MB: Weirdly, I did not feel very emotionally involved with the movie. Maybe because so much of the plot depends on texting, or maybe because the characters keep yammering on, Non-Stop, about their backstory.

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The end of the annual film calendar is nearly upon us, with the 86th Academy Awards set for Sunday evening on CTV and CTV.ca. Here's a sample of what to expect on Hollywood's biggest night.

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Did you know

- Meryl Streep's nod for best actress in August: Osage County marks her 18th Oscar nomination, breaking the record for most nominations earned by an actor or actress, previously held by ... Meryl Streep.
- If Jennifer Lawrence wins for best supporting actress in American Hustle she'll become the youngest person to win two acting Oscars. She'd also be the first actress to win back-to-back awards in different categories and with the same director.
- This year marks only the second time that Pixar has released a film (Monsters University) that hasn't earned a best animated picture nomination. The first was 2011's Cars 2.
- Best actor nominee Leonardo DiCaprio and best actress nominee Amy Adams are currently tied at five career nominations and zero wins each.
- With his nomination for The Book Thief's soundtrack, John Williams extends his ridiculous lead as the living person with the most Oscar nods, at 49. If you factor in the deceased, he's catching up to 60-time nominee Walt Disney.
- Frozen composer Bobby Lopez, one of the songwriters nominated for best song favourite Let It Go, would become the 12th person in show business history to achieve the EGOT — winning an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar and a Tony.
- Ellen DeGeneres reprises her role as the ceremony's host, following her last turn at the gig in 2007. She's got a long way to go to get into the record books though, as Bob Hope holds the lead with 19 hosting appearances.

Crews roll out the red carpet in preparation for the 86th annual Academy Awards on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

Your guide to the Oscars

86th Academy Awards. Here's what to look out for during Sunday's ceremony, hosted by Ellen DeGeneres

Returning producers Neil Meron and Craig Zadan say the theme for this year's Oscars is a salute to heroes and heroines of all stripes, celebrating everything from Norma Rae and Captain Phillips to Harry Potter and the Ghostbusters. There will also be a segment celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Wizard of Oz.

Music will be a big part of the ceremony, which is great considering so many big names are nominated in the best song category and performances of the nominated songs were skipped altogether in 2010 and 2012.

U2 (Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom), Pharrell Williams (Despicable Me 2), Karen O (Her) and Idina Menzel (Frozen) will all take the stage, as will Pink and Bette Midler for other performances.

But host DeGeneres has already insisted that she herself won't be singing, unlike last year's host, Seth MacFarlane.

Last-minute predictions

We're going ahead and calling most of the races all locked up, but there is still room for surprises. Best supporting actress and best picture seem particularly hard to pin down. But we're pinning them down anyway! If you win your office pool with this, we get a cut, OK?

- **Best Picture:** 12 Years a Slave
- **Best Director:** Alfonso Cuarón, Gravity
- **Best Actor:** Matthew McConaughey, Dallas Buyers Club
- **Best Actress:** Cate Blanchett, Blue Jasmine
- **Best Supporting Actor:** Jared Leto, Dallas Buyers Club
- **Best Supporting Actress:** Lupita Nyong'o, 12 Years a Slave
- **Best Original Screenplay:** Spike Jonze, Her
- **Best Adapted Screenplay:** John Ridley, 12 Years a Slave
- **Best Cinematography:** Gravity
- **Best Original Score:** Steven Price, Gravity

With 46 famous faces presenting over the course of the night, it's going to be a busy stage. Presenters include previous winners like Jennifer Lawrence, Christoph Waltz, Kevin Spacey and Angelina Jolie, plus popular names like Zac Efron, Channing Tatum and Kristen Bell. One we're definitely excited about is Vertigo star Kim Novak, making a rare public appearance at the ceremony.

This marks the 13th year the Oscars have been presented in the same venue, though the name has changed. What was the Kodak Theatre up until 2011 is now known as the Dolby Theatre.

And if the ceremony feels long, just be thankful it's not 2000 anymore. That year, the proceedings clocked in at a whopping four hours and four minutes, while they generally average around three-and-a-half hours long. The first Oscars in 1929, by the way, lasted 15 minutes. If only.

A few good reads

The books behind the films

If you're looking for some good reading material, the Academy's best adapted screenplay category is a good place to start, but you'll be searching bookstores in vain for the book behind Before Midnight. The screenplay for the movie is an adaptation because it's based on the characters from previous films Before Sunrise and Before Sunset. Still, you can always cozy up with these:

• A Captain's Duty: Somali Pirates, Navy SEALs and Dangerous Days at Sea, the book by Richard Phillips (with co-writer Stephan Talty) became Captain Phillips, with Tom Hanks stepping in to portray Phillips' hijacking by Somali pirates.

• The Lost Child of Philomena Lee by Martin Sixsmith obviously became Philomena, starring Dame Judi Dench as Lee and Steve Coogan as former BBC presenter Sixsmith.

• 12 Years a Slave, the harrowing 1853 memoir of Solomon Northup, was originally published with the subtitle "Narrative of Solomon Northup, citizen of New York, kidnapped in Washington city in 1841, rescued in 1853 from a cotton plantation near the Red River in Louisiana," which, honestly, is a total spoiler.

• Reading Jordan Belfort's own accounts of his exploits in the memoir The Wolf of Wall Street might help illuminate why the film's chronicle of bad behavior seemed so infatuated with its subject, who earned a tidy $1 million for the movie rights.

• Over in the best documentary category, you can pick up Jeremy Scahill's Dirty Wars: The World is a Battlefield if you want to learn more about the nominated film Dirty Wars.

And the Oscar for best cocktail goes to ...

It's an unusually crowded field for this year's best picture contest, but thankfully our vice isn't gambling. Instead, we raise a glass to three of our favourite 2013 nominees. Serve these and everyone goes home a winner!

TEXT BY JOE HOWELL, PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOANNA BALCERAK

I'm the Captain Now

- 1 oz Captain Morgan Dark Rum
- 1 oz Sailor Jerry Spiced Navy Rum
- 4 oz ginger beer
- 3 lime wedges
- 2 dashes Angostura Bitters

Build in a Collins glass with ice.

We salute Captain Phillips with this take on a seaworthy classic, the Dark 'n' Stormy. Originally just rum and ginger beer, the drink hails from the heyday of the Royal Navy, when sailors got a daily ration of rum and the Navy opened a ginger beer plant in Bermuda, purportedly to wean those same sailors off the hard stuff. Of course, the scallywags just combined the two instead. Here, the legendary pirate Morgan and the venerable skipper Jerry fight for control of this tempestuous libation.

The Russian Satellite

- 1.5 oz Stolichnaya Vodka
- .75 oz Kahlúa
- .25 oz pure lemon juice
- 2 dashes Bittermens Xocolatl Mole Bitters
- 1 dash Fernet Branca
- White tapioca pearls

Shake and strain into a brandy snifter, pack with ice, and scatter pearls on top.

The famous Black Russian — simply vodka and Kahlúa — is older than the space station Mir before they finally decommissioned the space wreck. In this twist we hail Gravity: the cocktail is still sweet and likeable, but thanks to the lemon and Fernet has a bit of edge, like George Clooney in pretty much all his roles. As the tapioca pearls slowly drift toward the bottom of this inky drink (due to, you know, gravitation) they resemble little stars.

The Bamboozeler

- 1.5 oz pineapple juice
- 1 oz coconut cream
- .75 oz Appleton VX
- .75 oz Malibu Rum
- 75 oz Blue Curaçao
- .50 oz lime juice

Shake hard with ice and strain into a stemmed martini glass. Garnish with a homemade cocktail umbrella.

"I don't care, I break the rules," says Bradley Cooper in American Hustle. With its neon hue and garish garnish, this libation definitely disregards modern cocktail conventions. But in the era of Hustle, sexy, gaudy drinks were de rigueur. And just like Christian Bale in this caper, the concoction might look harmlessly ludicrous—but it'll take you for a ride.

COCKTAILS BY JOE HOWELL, HEAD BARTENDER AT THE SPOKE CLUB. COME TOGETHER AT THESPOKECLUB.COM.

Look picture-perfect on the red carpet

Life as an A-list actress. From finding the right dress to erasing wrinkles and losing those extra pounds, getting Oscar-ready is a months-long affair

JOHN MACKAY
For Metro Canada

Puffiness! Breakouts! Bulges! If these are the nightmares that A-list actresses have on the nights leading up to the Oscars, they can be forgiven. They're only going to be seen by ... oh ... several hundred million people in 225 countries. No surprise that weeks, if not months, go into getting Oscar ready. Here's how it happens.

First, amass the troops. Have wardrobe stylist, tailor, hair stylist, makeup artist, dermatologist, aesthetician, nutritionist, personal trainer, massage therapist, manicurist and, since this is Hollywood, psychotherapist, scheduled and at the ready.

"The prepping can start months before the awards," says celebrity hair and makeup artist Sheri Stroh. "They'll get rolling with a diet and exercise protocol and meet with their stylist, who starts looking for the perfect dress."

Dermatologists and aestheticians, always on speed dial, come next, to perfect skin that's likely near perfect to begin with. But there's collagen to stimulate, pores to shrink and wrinkles to erase. Microdermabrasion, oxygen facials, LED light treatments and more — those high-definition cameras are merciless. And your Botox can always use a top-up.

Two weeks prior, get your hair cut and coloured. And how's your dress coming along? "It has to be the perfect dress that defines the celebrity's style," explains L.A. stylist Alissia Marciano.

By now you've picked out your dress — and your backup dress — and you've had more than one fitting. "Remember," Marciano says, "it has to fit you like a glove." Time to begin your juice fast. And schedule your spray tan.

The day's arrived, but don't worry, this is the easy part. Already carb-free and as cleansed, toned and taut as those three months of daily workouts will allow, do a little yoga to relax and then greet your team at the door. Try on your dress one last time. The tailor will cut and reshape it and can always sew you into the dress if need be.

While security men deliver the diamonds, let your hair stylist, makeup artist and manicurist get to work.

What to eat today? Nothing! Well, maybe a little bowl of detox soup, but please, no salt or caffeine, you don't want to bloat — there's only so much Spanx can do.

Finally, it's 4:30 p.m. in L.A. and your car is here. You're dressed, accessorized and made up, waiting while your stylist scrapes the bottom of your shoes with a knife — those red carpets can be slippery.

Get into the car oh-so-carefully and sit very still on your drive to Hollywood's Dolby Theatre. But relax! You'll be on and off that 500 feet of red carpet before you know it.

Actress Amy Adams on the red carpet at last year's Academy Awards. GETTY IMAGES

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The man behind The Lion King looks at the dog life

Mr. Peabody & Sherman hits theatres next Friday. CONTRIBUTED

Mr. Peabody & Sherman. Rob Minkoff brings back a beagle he loved as a child and makes a smart, funny film in the process

Quoted

"I didn't want to copy (the TV show) exactly because I couldn't possibly do that. So it was taking the spirit of it and letting that be. Trying to get to the core of what it is rather than the surface."

Director Rob Minkoff on making a film based on Peabody's Improbable History

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Rob Minkoff may always be best known as the co-director of The Lion King, one of the biggest animated hits of all time, but long before he brought Simba, Mufasa and Scar to life, he was a fan of a dog named Mr. Peabody.

Mr. Peabody is a beagle in the world of humans — imagine Family Guy's Brian with less attitude but more PhDs. He's a Harvard grad, a Nobel Prize winner, advisor to heads of state and in his spare time he invented planking and auto tune.

With his adopted human son Sherman, he's also a time traveller, taking the WABAC machine — "It's not WHERE we're going, but WHEN!" — to various spots in history in a weekly segment on the show Rocky and His Friends called Peabody's Improbable History.

"Whenever it came on, I would watch it," says Minkoff, director of the new animated film Mr. Peabody & Sherman, "so I've seen all the episodes multiple times.

"I was always a fan but I don't recall thinking, 'Oh, that would make a great movie one day.' It didn't occur to me that way. It all started 12 years ago with a conversation I had with (executive producer) Jason Clark. He came to me and said, 'What do you think of Mr. Peabody and Sherman?' My answer was, 'I love them.' He said, 'What about making a movie out of them.' I thought, 'They're great characters. There's a lot to them. There is an unexplored well of stuff, like the time machine and time travel.'"

That was 12 years ago. "Once you get your teeth into something creatively," he says, "you never really let go."

Over the years the idea for the film has shifted and changed. At the very early stages it was suggested that the movie could work as a live action story.

"It didn't take very long for me to come around to the idea that I would prefer to do this as an animated movie because I didn't understand how it would work as a live action thing. It would lose some of its appeal, some of the quirkiness of it."

The film retains the eccentricity of the original series: It's probably the only kid's movie with an Oedipal joke. But Minkoff hopes the movie will appeal to all ages.

"The original show was always popular among college educated, smarter people, and that was something we thought was important but at the same time, we wanted to) make it kid friendly.

"I didn't want to copy (the TV show) exactly because I couldn't possibly do that. So it was taking the spirit of it and letting that be. Trying to get to the core of what it is rather than the surface."

Ratings and synopses courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes. For more movie reviews, trailers and news go to RottenTomatoes.com.

Ratings: *Certified Fresh:* *Fresh:* *Rotten:* *Audience response:* *Audience anticipation for the film:* +

Drama/Comedy

The Great Beauty

Director. Paolo Sorrentino

Stars. Toni Servillo, Carlo Verdone

Journalist Jep Gambardella has charmed and seduced his way through the lavish nightlife of Rome for decades. Since the success of his one and only novel, he has been a permanent fixture in the city's literary and social circles, but when his 65th birthday coincides with a shock from the past, Jep finds himself taking stock of his life.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 92% **Audience:** 80%

Thriller

3 Days to Kill

Director. McG

Stars. Kevin Costner, Amber Heard

In this heart pounding action-thriller, Kevin Costner is a dangerous international spy, who is determined to give up his high stakes life to finally build a closer relationship with his estranged wife and daughter, whom he's previously kept at arm's length to keep out of danger. But first, he must complete one last mission.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 31% **Audience:** 54%

Animation

The Wind Rises

Director. Hayao Miyazaki

Stars. Joseph Gordon-Levitt

Jirou dreams of flying airplanes, but because he's nearsighted he's unable to become a pilot. Instead he becomes an engineer in the aircraft division of a major Japanese company, where his genius is soon recognized. Historic events and the happenings in his life are inextricably linked.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 83% **Audience:** + 92%

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., FEB. 28 TO THURS., MAR. 6. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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About Last Night (14A) Fri 7:45-10:15 Sat-Sun 2:30-5:05-7:45-10:15 Mon-Tue 5:55-8:35 Wed 1:55-5:55-8:35 Thu 5:55-8:35
Frozen (G) Sat-Sun 1:45
Frozen 3D (G) Sat-Sun 4:20 Mon-Thu 5:50
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:45-8 Mon-Tue 7:30 Wed 2:05-7:30 Thu 7:30
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) Fri-Sun 6:50-9:25 Mon-Thu 7:50
The LEGO Movie (G) Sat-Sun 1:20 Wed 2
The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Fri 7-9:45 Sat-Sun 4:10-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:35-8:15
The Nut Job (G) Sat-Sun 2:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:30
The Nut Job 3D (G) Sat-Sun 4:40 Mon-Thu 5:40
RoboCop (PG) Fri 7:20-10:05 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:05 Mon-Tue 5:25-8:05 Wed 1:35-5:25-8:05 Thu 5:25-8:05
Starting Over Again (PG) Fri 7:10-10 Sat-Sun 1:15-4:05-7:10-10 Mon-Tue 5:20-8:20 Wed 1:50-5:20-8:20 Thu 5:20-8:20
Winter's Tale (PG) Fri-Sun 6:55-9:35 Mon-Thu 8:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:30

Galaxy Cinemas Saskatoon
347 2nd Ave. South

3 Days to Kill (14A) Fri 4:30-7:20-10:25 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:25 Mon-Thu 7:20-10:10
300: Rise of an Empire 3D (18A) No Passes Thu 8-10:30
American Hustle (14A) Fri 3:50-6:50-9:55 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:50-6:50-9:55 Mon-Wed 6:55-10:05
Endless Love (PG) Fri-Thu 7:25-10
Frozen (G) Sat 11-11:55 Sun 11:55
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 4:55 Sat-Sun 2:25-4:55
Gnomeo and Juliet (G) Sat 11
The LEGO Movie (G) Fri 4:05-6:40-9:30 Sat 11-1:30-4:05-6:40-9:30 Sun 1:30-4:05-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:20
The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Fri 5:05-7:35-10:05 Sat-Sun 12-2:30-5:05-7:35-10:05 Mon-Thu 7:30-9:55
The Metropolitan Opera: Prince Igor (STC) Sat 11
The Monuments Men (PG) Fri 4:20-7-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:20-7-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:05-9:50
Non-Stop (PG) No Passes Fri 5:30-8:05-10:45 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:20-2:55-5:30-8:05-10:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:50-10:30
Pompeii 3D (STC) Fri 5:20-8-10:40 Sat-Sun 12:15-2:50-5:20-8-10:40 Mon-Thu 8-10:30
Ride Along (PG) Fri-Sat 5:35-8:10-10:45 Sun 12:25-3-5:35-8:10-10:45 Mon-Thu 7-9:35
RoboCop (PG) Fri 4:50-7:45-10:35 Sat 11:10-2-4:50-7:45-10:35 Sun 2-4:50-7:45-10:35 Mon-Thu 7:40-10:25
Romeo and Juliet (PG) Thu 7
Son of God (PG) No Passes Fri 4-7:10-10:20 No Passes Sat 12:55-4-7:10-10:20 No Passes Sun 12:50-4-7:10-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:10-10:20
That Awkward Moment (14A) Fri 5:40-7:55-10:30 Sat-Sun 12:35-3:05-5:40-7:55-10:30 Mon-Wed 7:55-10:15 Thu 10:15

Roxy Theatre
320 20th St West

86th Annual Academy Awards (STC) Sun 7
August: Osage County (14A) Sat 3:30-6:50 Sun 3:30 Mon-Thu 6:50
Her (14A) Sat 1-9:20 Mon-Thu 9:20
Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (14A) Fri 9:10 Sat-Sun 3:20-9:10 Mon-Thu 9:10
Sex After Kids (14A) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1:15-7 Mon-Thu 7

Rainbow Cinemas Saskatoon
The Centre at Circle & 8th

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri-Thu 1-3:55-6:50-9:45
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:10-9:55
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (G) Fri-Thu 1:40
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri-Wed 1:30-5-8:40 Thu 1-5-8:40
Lone Survivor (14A) Fri-Thu 4:10-7-9:50
Philomena (PG) Fri-Thu 4:30-7:05-9:30
Saving Mr. Banks (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:05-6:55-9:40
Walking With Dinosaurs (G) Fri-Thu 2:10
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:50-8:50

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Girls star Driver tipped to play new Stars Wars VII villain

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

Some days, it's good to have a face like a handsome alien. Adam Driver, the Girls star who looks like the love child of sexy and weird, is putting those unconventional good looks to excellent use: He's close to signing a deal to play a villain in the upcoming Star Wars: Episode VII, according to Variety. Sources say his character will be in the vein of Darth Vader.

Apparently, the only hold-up was his Girls shooting schedule, but surely Hannah and Marnie's Brooklynite fretting is no match for the power of the Force. Although breathless casting rumours have swirled around just about every Hollywood male since the J.J. Abrams-directed reboot was announced, nothing has been confirmed yet, including for Driver — not by the Star Wars people, anyhow. Driver's co-star and boss Lena Dunham seems pretty sure he's got the job.

"We're VERY proud of Adam Driver re: Star Wars. He's about to rip a hole in da force. Is that a thing? I guess I should see those movies?" she tweeted on Feb. 26.

OK, maybe she's not totally sure, because she followed that up with a second tweet: "I confirm nothing bc I know nothing bc I'm on a plane with my dad! I just like Adam more than almost anyone, and JJ Abrams a whole lot too."

It's a good week for the Girls gang: another one of Driver's co-stars, Allison Williams, just got engaged to boyfriend Ricky Van Veen, who is a co-founder of the comedy website CollegeHumor.

No Patton the back for Thicke after MTV grind

There was plenty of outrage about Robin Thicke and Miley Cyrus' aggressively sexual routine at the MTV Video Music Awards back in August, and apparently Paula Patton was among those put off by the grinding and gyrating.

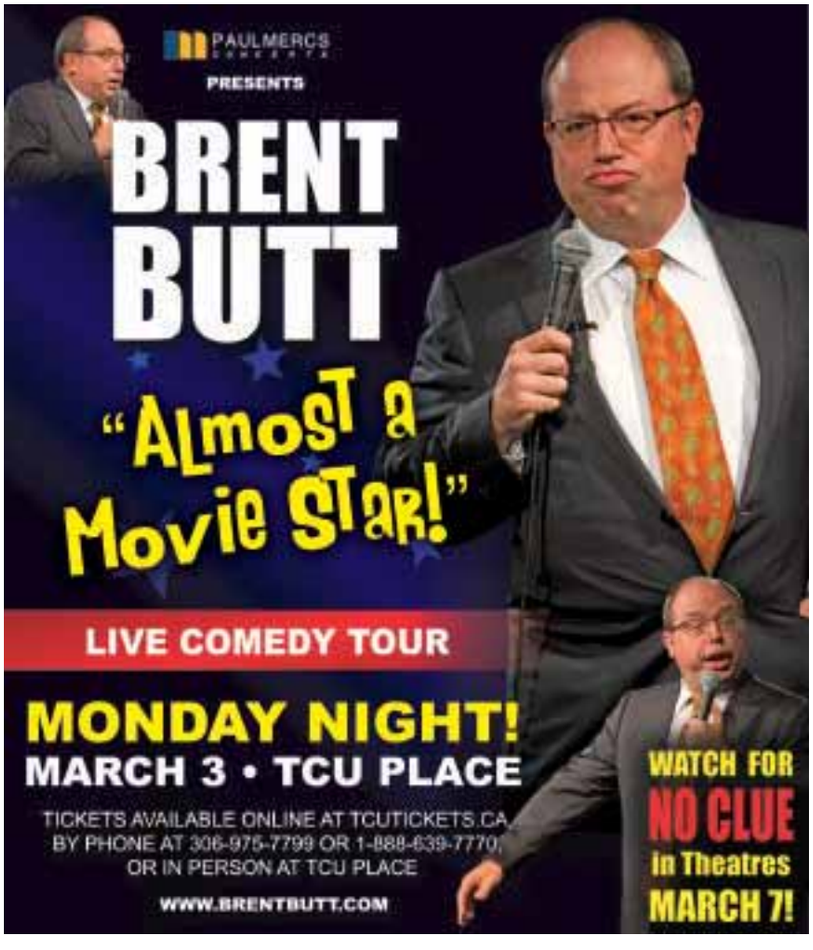
A source tells Us Weekly that the risqué performance left Patton feeling "utterly disrespected" and was a key factor in her decision to separate from Thicke after nine years of marriage. In fact, the pair reportedly got into a screaming match over the stunt.

Paula Patton

Rihanna ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Rihanna's flirty ways keep Drake and Brown guessing — and love triangle intact

Everything old is new again, including the R&B love triangle that is Rihanna, Drake and Chris Brown. Rihanna recently enjoyed a Paris outing with the Canadian rapper, who traded blows with Brown at a New York club in 2012 over what was said to be an argument about her. And Rihanna has reportedly been exchanging text messages with ex-boyfriend Brown, who is still on probation for assaulting her five years ago, according to the NY Post. "Chris started texting Rihanna on her birthday (on Feb. 20), and the two have been sending each other a flurry of texts ever since," a source says. "Friends are freaked out that she's going to start dating him again."



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For the first time in years I can say I've seen most of the movies nominated for the Best Picture Oscar. Sadly, not one of them speaks to the wine community.

It looks like I'll have to wait until The Billionaire's Vinegar, the story of the world's most expensive bottle of wine, hits theatres. Brad Pitt is set to star.

If you're wondering what my favourite wine movies are, here are my top picks:

Sideways: The brilliant Academy Award winner that made pinot noir a superstar.

Bottle Shock: Upstart Americans take on the French in a sniff, swirl and spit contest that ... well, I won't ruin the ending.

A Good Year: Russell Crowe inherits a French winery in Provence and his ego gets crushed just like his grapes.

Somm: A doc that will have you shedding a tear at the trials and tribulations of becoming a sommelier.

For me, the Oscars are an appetizer event and the refreshing varietal fruit of the Fat Bastard 2012 Chardonnay ($13.46 - $15.99) makes for a food-friendly date to the big show. **PRICES REFLECT RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Nothing cures the winter blues like comfort food. Bestselling Australian chef Donna Hay shows us how, with a hearty slow-roasted lamb recipe from her cookbook Fast, Fresh, Simple.

Fancy with ease: Slow-Cooked Balsamic and Garlic Lamb

This recipe serves four. DONNA HAY

FAST, FRESH, SIMPLE
Donna Hay
gustotv.com

1. Preheat oven to 140 C (275 F). Place the lamb, vinegar, stock, rosemary, garlic and sugar in a deep baking dish and cover with a tight-fitting lid. Bake for 3 hours.

2. Turn lamb and bake further 2 hours. Remove the lid, increase temperature to 180 C (350 F) and bake for 30 minutes or until the lamb has browned.

Ingredients

- 1 kg lamb shoulder, on the bone
- 1 1/3 cups (310 ml) balsamic vinegar
- 3 cups (750 ml) chicken stock
- 6 sprigs rosemary
- 8 cloves garlic
- 2 tbsp brown sugar

GustoTV

Australian chef Donna Hay is one of the great culinary masters airing on GustoTV. One of Canada's newest TV channels, Gusto features cooking and culinary travel shows each night, hosted by chefs and foodies from around the world, as well as here at home. For more details, check your local listings or visit gustotv.com.

3. Remove lamb from pan and keep warm. Pour pan juices over a bowl of ice and quickly remove the ice and the solidified fat with a slotted spoon. Place the pan juices into a small saucepan and bring to the boil.

4. Serve lamb with crispy roasted potatoes, steamed greens and pan juices. **WATCH DONNA HAY FAST, FRESH, SIMPLE MONDAY TO THURSDAY AT 6 P.M. EST ON GUSTO TV, CANADA'S NEW FOOD & LIFESTYLE CHANNEL. VISIT GUSTOTV.COM FOR FULL PROGRAM LINE-UP AND MORE GREAT RECIPE IDEAS.**

Dessert

Standby Brownies

- 150 g butter
- 1 1/4 cups (275 g) caster (superfine) sugar
- 3/4 cup (75 g) cocoa
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup (75 g) plain (all-purpose) flour

Preheat oven to 160 C (325 F).

Place the butter, sugar and cocoa in a saucepan over low heat and stir until the butter has melted. Spoon into a bowl and add the vanilla and eggs, whisking well.

Sift the flour over the mixture and whisk to combine.

Spoon the mixture into a 20 cm-square cake tin lined with non-stick baking paper.

Bake for 30–35 minutes or until centre is just set. Cool in tin and cut into squares to serve. Makes 16. **DONNA HAY, GUSTOTV.COM**

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JAKE'S ON 21st ALWAYS KEEPS IT FRESH

FIND OUT WHY PEOPLE KEEP COMING BACK

At Jake's on 21st, owner Laurie Forseille buys ingredients daily. You always know that salad you ordered will be crunchy, bright, and flavourful, and the delicious soup and pita chips are made in house with care.

"We like to use all fresh foods," Forseille says. "That's a comment that a lot of our customers make — you can tell we use fresh foods all the time ... People like our food, so they keep coming back."

At the heart of downtown Saskatoon, Jake's has a lot of regulars, and they know what they want. "They all have their favourites," Forseille says.

Regulars may have their go-to picks, but with Jake's daily $10 special, you can try something new every day. Featuring anything from wraps to sandwiches to burgers, it's one of the most affordable lunches you can get downtown.

Plus, Jake's now serves alcohol, offering up beers, cocktails, and wine to complement your meal. When they open up the sidewalk patio this summer, you will be able to enjoy your meal and sip your drink in the sunshine.

Jake's on 21st has become a favourite downtown lunch spot for many Saskatonians. If you aren't already a regular, stop by and find out why people keep coming back.

MARDI GRAS GRILL SERVES UP EXOTIC FARE

TRY THE ALLIGATOR

One of Mardi Gras Grill's signature dishes is causing quite a stir in Saskatoon. Along with traditional Louisiana cuisine like fried green tomatoes and catfish, the restaurant also serves alligator.

Breaded and deep fried, the presentation of the alligator is familiar, making the exotic-sounding dish more approachable. And the verdict is clear — alligator is delicious.

"It has beautiful flavours," says owner Rob Tingey. "Nice, clean flavours; people liken it to really tender pork or chicken. And it's considered a super food — it's high in protein and low in fat."

Cajun and creole cuisine comes from the French-speaking Acadian region of the states in Louisiana. The meals stem from ingredients available locally in the area — seafood, pork, and even frog.

"(Cajun) has an interesting mash-up of different cultures," says Tingey, who has 21 years of culinary experience in a wide range of ethnic styles. "French is a huge influence, as well as Spanish and African. I fell in love with it right away."

Whether you are ordering authentic choices like the seafood étouffée, shrimp jambalaya, or a blackened catfish salad, or going the safe route with a cheeseburger, you will find something to love at Mardi Gras Grill.

SERGII SHCHELKUNOV/SHUTTERSTOCK

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MLB

Bautista already in flight for Jays

Jose Bautista kept up his torrid start to the spring, hitting two doubles and driving in two runs Thursday that sent the Toronto Blue Jays over the Philadelphia Phillies 7-5.

A day after hitting a long home run against the Phillies in his first at-bat of exhibition play, Bautista had an RBI double in the first inning off Philadelphia ace Cliff Lee.

Bautista finished 2-for-2 with a walk. The former two-time major-league homer champion missed the final six weeks last year because of a hip injury.

Jose Reyes, Brett Lawrie and Melky Cabrera also drove in runs for Toronto.

Darin Ruf and John Mayberry Jr. hit home runs for Philadelphia.

Blue Jays starter R.A. Dickey allowed one unearned run in two innings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Jeter farewell tour begins with a dud

Derek Jeter got a partial standing ovation Thursday before hitting into a double play in his first at-bat of the first spring training game of his final season.

The New York Yankees captain, who turns 40 in June, hit a grounder to second off Pittsburgh right-hander Charlie Morton. He swung and missed once, hit three foul balls and grounded into a 4-6-3 double play on a 3-2 pitch.

Jeter grounded out to third on an 0-1 pitch against left-hander Jeff Locke in the fourth.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Resumption of NHL sked makes foes of Canadian teammates

Canadiens defenceman P.K. Subban chases Penguins centre Sidney Crosby, who he played with on Team Canada during the Sochi Olympics recently, as goalie Peter Budaj keeps watch in Pittsburgh on Thursday night. Crosby scored a goal and assisted on another, but couldn't convert his opportunity in the shootout as the Canadiens won 6-5. David Desharnais was the only player to score in the shootout.

KEITH SRAKOCIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ex-Canucks owner ducking testimony

Steve Moore attack.
Lawyer of former player wants John McCaw Jr. to testify if he encouraged Todd Bertuzzi's sucker-punch

The former owner of the Vancouver Canucks should be forced to answer, in front of a jury, if he approved a career-ending sucker punch on Steve Moore, a lawyer for the former NHL player argued in court Thursday.

It's now 10 years after Todd Bertuzzi's infamous hit, and Moore's multi-million-dollar lawsuit is finally approaching a trial. Moore's lawyer, Tim Danson, is asking the Ontario Superior Court to compel John McCaw Jr., who is based in Seattle, to testify in Toronto.

"He just goes on with his life with the incredible privileges of being a billionaire ... while Steve Moore tries to recover from a shattered life," Danson said in court Thursday.

"For him to say, 'I'm not going to come and testify in any capacity' is regrettable. It's regrettable and it defies principles of fairness and justice. For him to simply hide behind his U.S. citizenship and residency given the nature of all of these facts should not be accepted and it's not something the public would accept."

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman and deputy commissioner Bill Daly have voluntarily agreed to testify, Danson said.

Master Ronald Dash, who is hearing the motion, said he would not order McCaw to testify in person at the trial, slated to begin in September, but is considering Danson's alternate request that McCaw testify via video conference.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rebuttals

Moore is suing Bertuzzi and the Canucks for $38 million for a 2004 on-ice hit that left Moore, then a Colorado Avalanche player, with a concussion and three fractured vertebrae.

- Moore had hit Markus Naslund weeks earlier, concussing the Canucks' captain.

Letang unsure if he'll return this season

Kris Letang hasn't played for the Penguins since Jan. 27. He suffered a stroke two days later. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

He's missed five games already, and defenceman Kris Letang isn't sure if he'll be back with the Pittsburgh Penguins this season.

The 26-year-old Montreal native suffered a stroke in January. Although the 2013 Norris Trophy finalist has resumed working out, he's non-committal about exactly when he'll be back on the ice playing for the Penguins.

"I'm going to say, it's not really a good season for me, not really lucky," Letang told reporters Thursday in his first availability since the stroke. "But honestly, if I have the chance to come back this year and play, it's going to be great and I want to make sure I forget all about the three quarters of the season I missed."

Quoted

"I woke up and my wife found me on the ground. The day before I was totally fine."

Kris Letang on the stroke he suffered on Jan. 29.

Letang will undergo more tests in about three weeks.

Doctors have monitored Letang since his stroke, meeting with him twice weekly. He's currently taking blood-thinners and will continue doing so for now.

Tests also showed Letang has a small hole in the wall of his heart, a condition all people have before they are born. But the hole eventually shuts for the vast majority of babies shortly after birth.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 SPORTS

MLB. Braun doesn't wait long to display his brawn

Back from a lengthy suspension, Ryan Braun quickly displayed some power.

The slugger hit a two-run homer Thursday in his first at-bat for the Milwaukee Brewers since completing a season-ending, 65-game suspension in 2013 for violating Major League Baseball's anti-drug agreement.

In the first inning of Milwaukee's spring opener against Oakland, Braun hit an 0-1 pitch off Tommy Milone high over the wall near the left-field corner, 345 feet away. The 2011 NL MVP got a hearty round of cheers, the loudest coming from fans in the dozen rows or so behind the Brewers bench at Phoenix Municipal Stadium, the spring home of the Athletics.

"It's still the first day of spring training. Better to hit the ball hard then to strike out," Braun said. "The goal is to have a gradual progression to prepare myself for the season."

Ryan Braun GETTY IMAGES

One that promises to have its share of hecklers for Braun, at least at the start. Just before the homer, one fan wearing an A's hat yelled "MVP-E-D."

Braun took it in stride.

"I've never experienced them not yelling at me," he said. "They have some new things to yell at me for, to yell at me about."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PGA. Tiger's struggles continue at Honda Classic

Zach Johnson made a quadruple-bogey 8 on his second hole and still managed a 67 in the Honda Classic on Thursday.

Tiger Woods had good birdie chances on his opening four holes and couldn't break par.

Johnson made seven birdies after his soggy start — two straight shots into the water. He looked as though he might have shot himself out of the tournament, but he ended the round two shots behind co-leaders William McGirt and Rory Sabbatini among the early starters. Woods was playing for the first time in a month — and only his third tournament this year — and he didn't show many signs of rounding into form. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shooting from the hip

"It certainly wasn't together today. I didn't get into a roll early."

Tiger Woods, on his opening round performance in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

CFL

Hortons hears an Oskee Wee Wee

The CFL's Tiger-Cats reached a 20-year lease agreement with the city of Hamilton for the use of the new Tim Hortons Field on Thursday.

The $145.7-million stadium is set to open when the Ticats play Ottawa July 26. The lease will see the CFL club commit upwards of $30 million over the term, was approved by civic officials Wednesday night.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Testing...Testing...Testing One, Two, Ferrari

Kimi Raikkonen of Finland and Ferrari drives to a third-place finish during Day 1 of Formula One winter testing at the Bahrain International Circuit on Thursday. Force India's Sergio Perez of Mexico finished first while Valtteri Bottas of Finland was second. The testing continues on Friday in preparation for the season-opening Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne, March 14-16.

SHAUN BOTTERILL/GETTY IMAGES

Number issue with Collins in Denver

NBA. Nets centre wearing jersey in honour of slain gay college student

Deron Williams took a moment to snap a few photos of Brooklyn teammate Jason Collins at their shootaround in Portland.

He couldn't help it: The NBA's first openly gay player was surrounded by a throng of cameras and microphones, and at least for the next week or so, Collins will be the face of the Nets wherever they go.

The seven-footer was signed to a 10-day contract on Sunday. He played in a 108-102 victory over the Lakers that night, with two rebounds, five fouls and a steal in just under 11 minutes.

Before Wednesday night's game against the Trail Blazers, Collins said he accepted both the interest and scrutiny that has come with his return to the league.

The family of Matthew Shepard will be looking on at the Pepsi Center in Denver on Thursday as the NBA's first openly gay player Jason Collins, right, and the Brooklyn Nets play the Nuggets. MARK J. TERRILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"I'm back playing basketball, so of course I'm enjoying this," he said.

Collins quietly played seven minutes in the 124-80 loss to the Blazers on Wednesday night, entering after Nets coach Jason Kidd had pulled his starters in the fourth quarter and many of the fans had already headed for the exits. He attempted one field goal.

After Portland, the Nets visit Denver, where the family of slain Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard were expected to make the drive for the game Thursday night against the Nuggets.

Shepard was tortured and murdered in 1998 because he was gay. Collins wears his No. 98 jersey in Shepard's honour. He wants to keep the details of any meeting with Judy Shepard to himself.

"Obviously, it's extremely special and I'm very much looking forward to meeting them," he said.

Collins wore the No. 98 with both the Boston Celtics and the Washington Wizards for Shepard even before coming out.

"We were very touched," Judy Shepard told the New York Daily News about the jersey. "For him to make that tribute to Matt was meaningful to us."

The jersey was already the biggest seller of the day Tuesday on NBAStore.com, and the NBA said it was selling well again Wednesday. The league didn't provide the number of jerseys sold.

Collins publicly announced he was gay last May, and he joins several other athletes to come out, including Robbie Roberts of Major League Soccer's Los Angeles Galaxy, Brittney Griner of the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury, and NFL draft hopeful Michael Sam, an All-American defensive end who played at Missouri.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
As mind planet Mercury moves in your favour again today your attitude will change for the better and you will be more upbeat about your hopes. Anything is possible if you want it enough.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Keep telling yourself that you have what it takes. If you say it enough, you will start to believe it and when that happens, all sorts of doors will suddenly open to you.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
If you have something to say you know isn't going to please some people, say it now. Don't worry about the consequences. Your job is to call it as you see it, and you see more clearly than most.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Be on the lookout for money-making opportunities but don't go rushing after them the moment you spot them. As Mercury, planet of intellect and communication, turns direct again today you can afford to take your time.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
A loved one will speak their mind today and what they have to say will shock you. You never realized they could be so passionate, or so angry. Well, now you know, so what are you going to do about it?

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
As of today you should find it easier to organize your daily routine and either get rid of or delegate jobs that take up a great deal of your time for very little in the way of rewards.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
News you receive from afar will make you realize that what you've been worrying about in recent weeks is of no real importance. Creatively and romantically, seize the initiative and make things happen.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
It may annoy you that someone is saying untrue things. But the best approach is to pretend that you have not noticed and that you agree with every word they say. Then prove them wrong.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Now that Mercury, planet of communication, is moving in your favour again, you will find it easy to express yourself. But don't let everyone know what is going on in your head.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
What seems extraordinary to you may be an everyday occurrence to other people, so let your mind be open to all possibilities. It doesn't, of course, mean you have to agree with them.

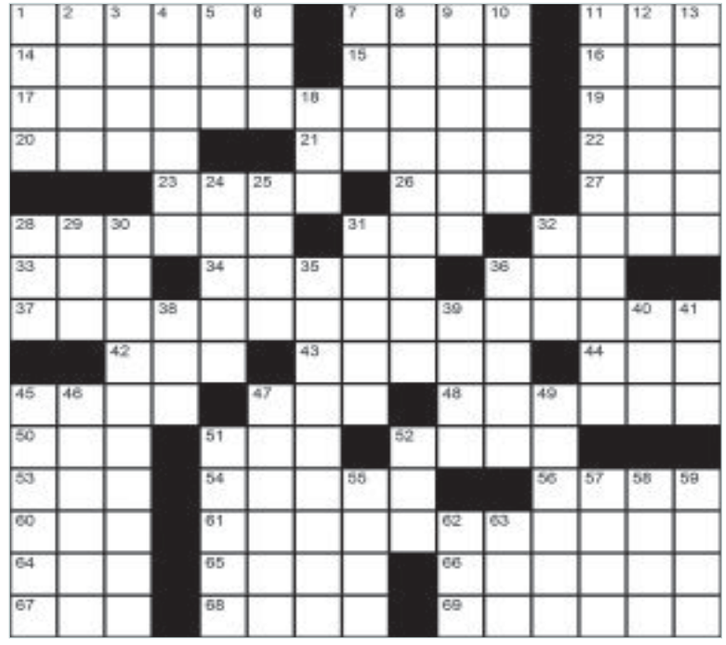
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Any self-doubts you have will start to fade today and with luck will be swept away by tomorrow's new moon. People expect you to be positive in your views and don't want to disappoint them.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Mercury ends its retrograde phase and your self-belief will soar. With a new moon and a wonderful Sun-Jupiter link over the next 48 hours, this could be one of the best weekends of the year. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

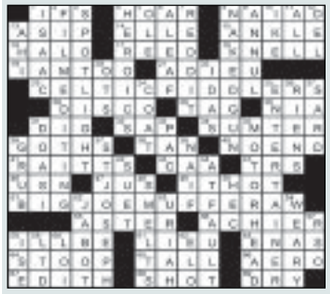
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Sandy site
7. Cross of ancient Egypt
11. Talking Heads tune: "And She __"
14. Four-leaf __
15. Like retro records
16. Sherbrooke 'soul'
17. One-of-the-some who vote on Oscars: acronym + word
19. Till bill
20. Key
21. Traditions
22. Inventor Mr. Whitney
23. Pointing-out word
26. Bar brew
27. Duran Duran hit
28. Merry
31. "__-boom-bah!"
32. Near-not
33. "...man __ _ mouse?"
34. __ __ egg (Give birth, chicken-style)
36. Pres. monogram
37. Montreal-born star who received a Best Actress Oscar nod for her role as Anne Boleyn in "Anne of the Thousand Days" (1969): 2 wds.
42. Choler
43. Truth __
44. Born, fancy-style
45. Cats, for instance
47. '60s hit: "__ My Party"
48. Gymnastics great, Mary Lou __
50. English cathedral town
51. George Harrison's autobiography, _ __ Mine
52. Office-worker's 'about': 2 wds.
53. Klutz
54. After: French
56. Canadian comic Mr. Macdonald
60. Harper Valley org.
61. Movie of 1943 (with Greer Garson in the title role) for which Canadian star Walter Pidgeon was a Best Actor nominee: 2 wds.
64. Worn wreath
65. Oktoberfest drink
66. Martial Art
67. Slip
68. Greek Myth: Charon's river
69. Shoelace-insertion spot

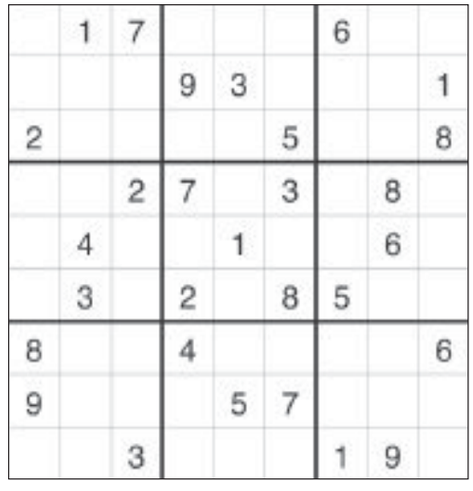
Down
1. Hoodwink
2. __ mater
3. Culture of northeastern Arizona
4. Billy Wilder directed comedy of 1972 starring Jack Lemmon!
5. CV
6. Branch
7. Cartridge, e.g.
8. Easily-figured-out decision
9. Prays at the pew
10. 2014 Best Animated Short Film nominee, "Get a __!"
11. Best Picture winner, "On the __" (1954)
12. Henry Fielding book of 1751
13. Junior opposite
18. 911 respondent
24. Bisect
25. Jai __
28. Treadmill pace
29. USA state
30. Magazine that hosts an annual Oscars party: 2 wds.
31. Keeps
32. Modifying wd.
35. Beatles song
36. Irked individual
38. Hosp. areas
39. Create a CD
40. 2014 Best Actor nominee Mr. DiCaprio
41. Home room
45. Citizenry
46. One who uplifts others with joy, say
47. Bestow
49. Time on the job
51. Poetic feet
52. Philosophy
55. Waters: French
57. Unwritten
58. Ceremony
59. Convene
62. Supplement
63. Small island

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

4	8	7	2	1	9	3	6	5
1	2	6	3	8	5	7	4	9
9	5	3	7	6	4	1	2	8
3	7	8	1	2	6	5	9	4
2	1	5	9	4	3	8	7	6
6	4	9	8	5	7	2	3	1
7	6	4	5	3	8	9	1	2
8	3	2	6	9	1	4	5	7
5	9	1	4	7	2	6	8	3

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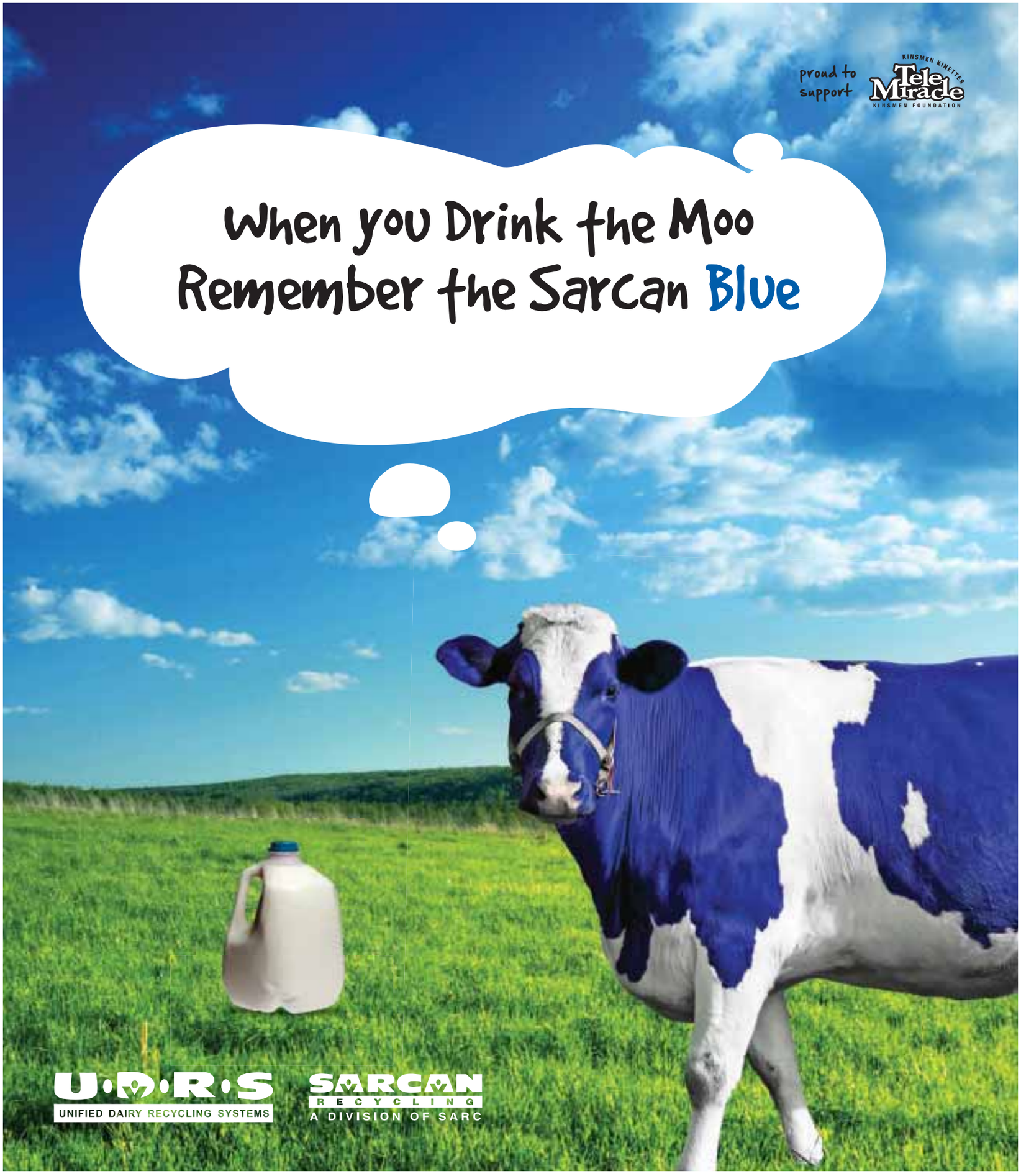
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